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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/099,789	03/15/2002	A. Kent Sievers	1565.008US1	4880

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER
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WANG, LIANG CHE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/29/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/099,789

**Applicant(s)**

SIEVERS ET AL.

**Examiner**

Liangche A. Wang

**Art Unit**

2153

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 26-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 26-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-7, 26-38 are presented for examination.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/14/08 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 7/14/08, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Updated rejection is provided to address the amended claims. Rejection is maintained.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quine et al., hereinafter Quine, in views of Schneider, US Patent Number 6,901,436, hereinafter Schneider.
6. Referring to claim 1, Quine teaches a method for defining an electronic address (page 2 [0012]), comprising:
  - a. selecting a preferred domain name (page 2 [0012] lines 7-9);
  - b. selecting a preferred address format (page 8 [0079] lines 9-12);
  - c. selecting one or more additional address formats in addition to the preferred address format (page 2 [0012] lines 3-5, page 8 [0079]);
  - d. retaining the preferred domain name, the preferred address format, and the one or more additional address formats to define the electronic address (page 8 [0079] lines 12-13), wherein the preferred domain name include an Internet domain name selected from one or more of the following domain names: ".com," ".edu," ".org," ".gov," ".bus," ".pro," (figure 7, ".com") and a country domain (well known in the art that a email address may contain a country domain e.g. ".com.tw"), wherein the preferred address format and the one or more additional address formats are separated from the domain names by a delimiter (figure 7) and the preferred domain name and the one or more additional address formats uniquely identifies a handle to a resource within an environment defined by the Internet domain name (inherent features of sending a message using an email address. The email address in figure 7, quinedo@pd.com , where the domain pd.com is defining an environment, and "pd" could be the handle that is uniquely identified to a

resource within an environment defined by the Internet domain name), and wherein the electronic address is used to route and to deliver messages over the Internet to the resource defined by the electronic address (inherent feature of email addresses.)

Quine does not teach selecting one or more additional domain names in addition to the preferred address format, and retaining the one or more additional domain names.

Schneider teaches additional selections of domain names are provided for registration (Col 16 lines 41-47.).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the additional domain names for user selections because both Quine and Schneider teaches inventions relating to defining electronic addresses.

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Quine because having the multiple domain names available would allow potential registrant/entity to register a final selection from the valid domain names as taught by Schneider (Col 16 lines 41-47.)

7. Referring to claim 2, Quine as modified teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising acquiring a text string associated with a preferred electronic address and retaining the text string to further define the electronic address (figure 7 [0079] data formats are presented in a various orders of text strings.)
8. Referring to claim 3, Quine as modified teaches the method of claim 2, wherein in acquiring the text string, the text string is dynamically acquired from a directory object,

when present in the directory object (see figure 7, when a particular format is being selected, the real first name and last name are acquired dynamically to form the electronic address).

9. Referring to claim 4, Quine as modified teaches the method of claim 2, wherein in acquiring the text string, the preferred electronic address is calculated from a directory (figure 7, preferred electronic address is calculated from the directory of first and last name.)
10. Referring to claim 5, Quine as modified teaches the method of claim 1, wherein in selecting the preferred address format and the one or more additional address formats, the formats include one or more subcomponents (figure 7 [0079] format could be consisting first name and last name.)
11. Referring to claim 6, Quine as modified teaches the method of claim 1, wherein in selecting the preferred address format and the one or more additional address formats, the one or more subcomponents are order independent within the preferred address format and the one or more allowable address formats (figure 7, formats list 701, subcomponent LAST is independent to subcomponent FIRST.)
12. Referring to claim 7, Quine as modified teaches the method of claim 1, wherein in selecting the preferred address format and the one or more additional address formats, the preferred address format and the one or more additional address formats include one or more subcomponents, and wherein the one or more subcomponents include at least one of an electronic login name, an administrator defined identification, a first name, a last name, a middle initial, a middle name, and a nick name (see figure 7.)

13. Referring to claim 26, Quine teaches a method comprising:

- a. assigning a domain with an electronic mail (email) definition (page 2 [0012] lines 7-9, figure 7), each domain is a valid Internet domain name defined by explicit string values that represent acceptable Internet domain names (figure 7, “pd.com”);
- b. assigning multiple prefix formats with the email definition (page 2 [0012] lines 7-9, figure 7);
- c. retaining the email definition, wherein any selected one of the multiple prefix formats when combined with any selected domain resolves to a same electronic address (page 8 [0079] lines 12-13), wherein the same electronic address identifies a resource over the Internet that is to receive messages that are routed over the Internet using combinations of the multiple prefix formats combined with any selected one of the domains to unique identify the resource over the Internet ((page 2 [0012] lines 3-5, page 8 [0079], figure 7).

Quine does not teach selecting one or more additional domain names in addition to the preferred address format, and retaining the one or more additional domain names.

Schneider teaches additional selections of domain names are provided for registration (Col 16 lines 41-47.).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the additional domain names for user selections because both Quine and Schneider teaches inventions relating to defining electronic addresses.

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Quine because having the multiple domain names available would allow potential registrant/entity to register a final selection from the valid domain names as taught by Schneider (Col 16 lines 41-47.)

14. Referring to claims 27-38, claims 27-39 encompass the same scope of the invention as that of the claim 1-7 and 26. Therefore, claim 27-38 are rejected for the same reason as the claims 1-7, and 26.

### ***Conclusion***

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liang-che Alex Wang whose telephone number is (571)272-3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
16. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton B Burgess can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
17. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you



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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Liang-che Alex Wang  
July 23, 2008

/Liangche A. Wang/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2153